

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 4, 6-8, and 11 are amended herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12 are currently pending and under consideration in the present application.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 4-9, AND 11 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER USP# 5,764,770 TO SCHIPPER ET AL. AND USP# 4,405,829 TO RIVEST ET AL. IN VIEW OF USP# 5,825,892 TO BRAUDAWAY ET AL.

The present invention as recited in claim 1 (as amended herein), relates to an apparatus for authenticating a digital signature, which comprises "a signature synthesizing part creating image information by synthesizing the digital signature and a predetermined mark, which enables a receiver to visually recognize a mark of the signer, wherein the digital signature is embedded in a predetermined color other than a color used for the mark of the signer in the predetermined mark."

Schipper teaches an apparatus for producing a self-authenticating visual image of a selected view, using a digital camera together with a position determination system that provides position information. However, Schipper is silent regarding the features recited in claim 1.

Rivest relates to a public key system for establishing private communications and for providing private communications with a signature. Rivest differs from the present invention, however, because Rivest fails to teach or suggest the claimed signature "synthesizing part creating image information by synthesizing the digital signature and a predetermined mark." See claim 1.

Accordingly, Schipper and Rivest, either alone or in combination, teach the features recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

Braudaway teaches watermarking a digitized image with a highly random sequence of pixel brightness multipliers. The Examiner appears to cite Braudaway, suggesting that a visualizer of Braudaway recognizes a pattern. Braudaway, however, is fundamentally different from the present invention. Braudaway merely provides a method for generating a watermarked image, wherein a watermark is imparted onto a digitized image, and detects a watermark in a marked image using the visualizer (see column 3, lines 35-38 and column 4, lines 28-43).

Braudaway is silent with regard to "creating image information by synthesizing [a] digital signature and a predetermined mark" (see claim 1) so that a receiver of a digital document can visually recognize a mark of the signer. In the present invention, a signature synthesizing part creates image information by synthesizing a digital signature and a predetermined mark, which enables a receiver to visually recognize a mark of the signer. The digital signature is embedded in a predetermined color other than a color used for the mark of the signer in the predetermined mark. Thus, for example, the mark of the signer can be a stamp showing a name with a stamp date, which is used in a business, an organization, or the like, in addition to a handwriting sign of the signer.

According to the above, it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Braudaway with the teachings of Schipper and Rivest to teach the features of the present invention. It is submitted therefore that Braudaway, Schipper, and Rivest, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the features as recited in claim 1.

Similar to claim 1, claim 4 (as amended herein) of the present invention describes a signature extracting part that extracts a digital signature from image information that is embedded into a digital document. The image information is capable of showing a predetermined mark, which enables a receiver to visually recognize a mark of a signer of the digital signature, wherein the digital signature is extracted from a predetermined color other than a color used for the mark of the signer in the predetermined mark.

Similar to claim 1, claims 6 and 8 recite, "creating image information by synthesizing the digital signature and a predetermined mark, which enables a receiver to visually recognize a mark of the signer, wherein the digital signature is embedded in a predetermined color other than a color used for the mark of the signer in the predetermined mark."

Similar to claim 4, claims 7 and 11 recite, "extracting the digital signature from image information embedded into a digital document, said image information showing a predetermined mark, which enables a receiver to visually recognize a mark of a signer of the digital signature, wherein the digital signature is extracted from a predetermined color other than a color used for the mark of the signer in the predetermined mark."

Accordingly, Braudaway, Schipper, and Rivest, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the features as recited in 4, 6-8, and 11.

Claims 2, 5 and 9 depend from claims 1, 4, and 8. For at least the reasons that claims 1, 4 and 8 distinguish over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 5 and 9 also

distinguish over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3, 10, AND 12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER USP# 5,764,770 TO SCHIPPER ET AL. AND USP# 4,405,829 TO RIVEST ET AL. IN VIEW OF USP# 5,825,892 TO BRAUDAWAY ET AL. AS APPLIED TO CLAIMS 1, 9 AND 11 ABOVE, AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF USP# 5,668,897 TO STOLFO

The comments in section II above, also apply here because claims 3, 10 and 12 depend from claims 1, 8, and 11. For at least the reasons that claims 1, 8, and 11 distinguish over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 10 and 12 also distinguish over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. CONCLUSION

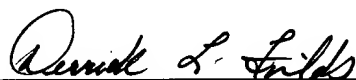
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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